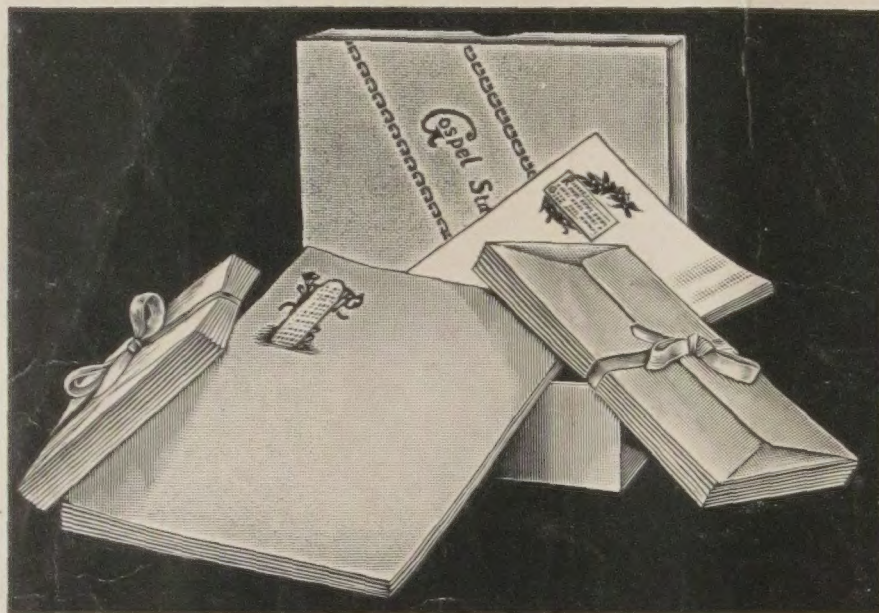


Bible Tales

for
Little
Folks



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GOSPEL STATIONERY



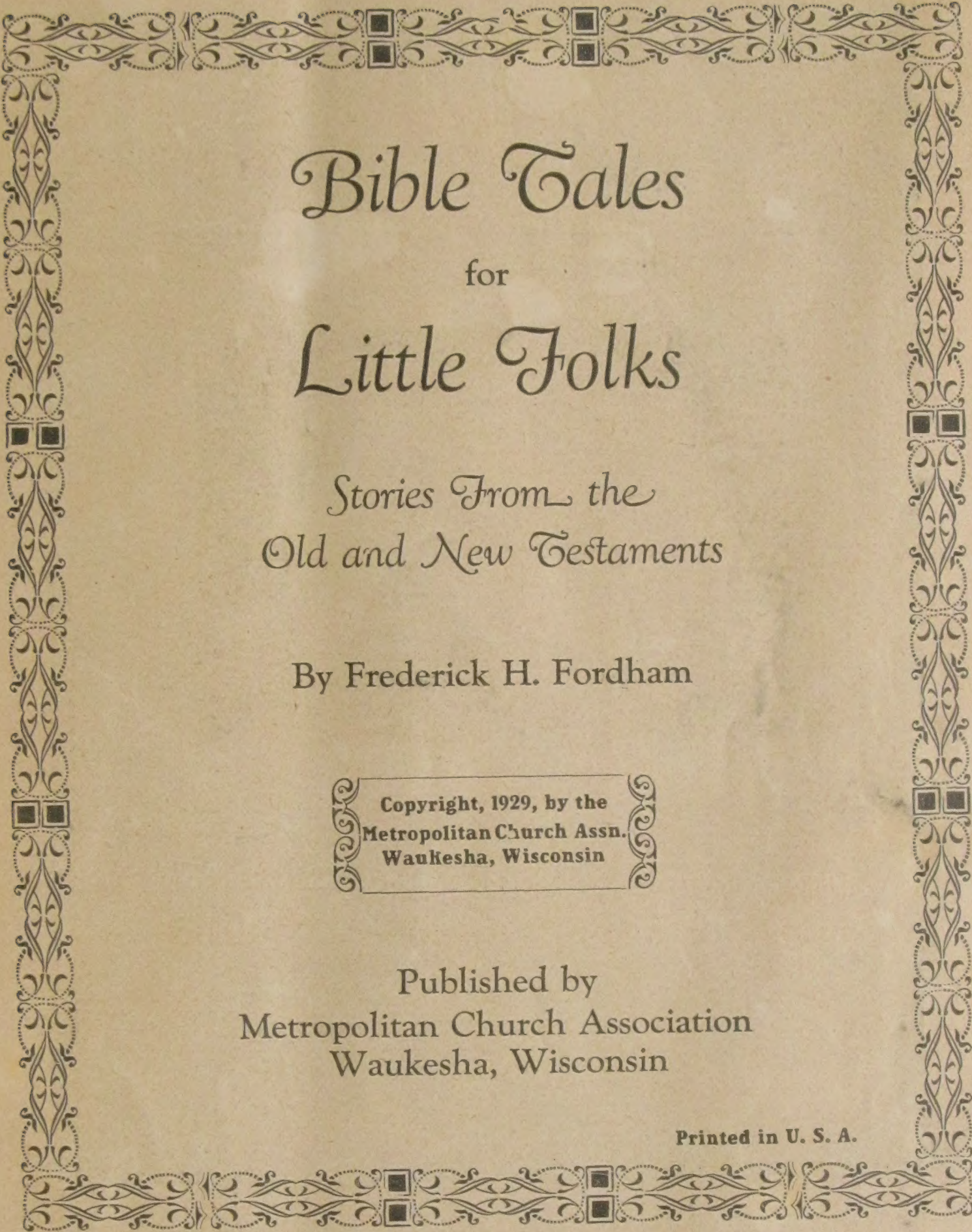
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Bible Tales for *Little Folks*

*Stories From the
Old and New Testaments*

By Frederick H. Fordham

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Beasts of the Earth, That God Made

The Story of the Creation



A LONG, LONG time ago—so long ago that we can hardly think of how long ago it must have been—there wasn't any beautiful world like the one we live in now. There were no flowers, no birds, no animals, not even any people. There was no bright sun shining in the sky, no stars to twinkle in the dark, dark night, no moon with a smiling face to make the night so beautiful. There was nothing but darkness and a great, great empty space; just a big, dark, cold hole with nothing in it.

But God was living, for He has always lived, you know; and one time He decided He would start to make something. We can't tell just how He did it, but we must remember that God is not like us. Before we start to make anything we must have something to make it of. If we want to make a kite we must get some thin, strong strips of wood, some good tough paper, a long, strong string, and some glue. But God has such wonderful power He can make things when there seems nothing to make them of.

So when God started to make this wonderful creation He first made the earth and surrounded it with a great space so there was nothing to bump into it. For you see if a star should

bump into the earth it would break it all to pieces and everybody would be killed.

Do you remember I said there was nothing but darkness around the earth? God did not like darkness any better than you do when you see the closet door standing open at night and it looks like a big black hole, and Brother says, "Daddy, please shut the closet door."

So God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. What a sad



The Earth Surrounded by Space

world this would be if we had to live in darkness all the time. The people who have visited a great cave have told us that the fish that live in that



"The Sky Covered With Shining Stars"

cave cannot see. They have lived in the dark all their lives and so their eyes cannot see even if they are brought to the light.

Then God made the air which we breathe. Try holding your breath for a while and see how it feels. I haven't time to tell you all about it now, but if we could not get air we should soon all die.

Did you ever see the great Atlantic Ocean—a great big pond, so big that it takes the big boats nearly a week to sail across it? There are five oceans around the world and they take more room than the dry land does. The funniest thing about them is that the top of them is round like an apple

and that is why we cannot see very far on the water.

When God had gathered all the water into big ponds and fixed it so it had to stay there, He thought it was time to make something grow on the earth. Wouldn't it have been nice to see the new earth when it was all in green and the beautiful trees and fruit were growing everywhere?

But something more wonderful still was to happen the next day for when morning came a great ball of fire came up in the sky—God had made the sun. If we had been there we should have wondered, shouldn't we? And we should have been surprised again when the sun went down and we looked up and saw the whole sky covered with shining stars, and the great moon smiling down at us to keep us from being "afraid in the dark."

I think we would have said, "I wonder what God will make tomorrow," and what do you suppose it was? We should have to go to the water to see, and perhaps all at once two great spouts of water would go shooting up in the air, for the whale had come to the top to breathe. God had made the fish.

So the water was just filled with moving things—oysters, crabs, great sharks and all kinds of things that live in the water.

But there was nothing yet to eat the grass that God had made and so the next day came the animals, the tiny beetles that crawl on the plants, the ants, the crickets, the mice, the rats, cats, dogs, cattle, horses, camels,

and even some great big elephants.

That was not all that was made on that day for God thought something else was needed. There were no little boys and girls to ride the horses or play with the dogs. There was no one to take care of the fruit trees and train the animals. How do you suppose God made man? He took some clay and moulded it into the shape of a man just like you make a little mouse with your clay at school. Then he breathed into his nose and the man He had made became alive.

But there was still no mother. Do you know what the doctor does if he has to do something to a person's arm or leg that hurts terribly? He puts some liquid called ether on a piece of cotton and fastens it over the nose. Then when the person breathes through the cotton, the ether goes down into his lungs and pretty soon he is so sound asleep that the doctor can even cut off his arm or his leg, and he will know nothing about it. After the operation the cotton is taken off from his nose, so that he can breathe out the ether from his lungs. Then he sleeps a long time, and when he wakes up and tries to raise his hand—behold! the hand is not there—but the hurt is gone, too.

Well, God did something like that too. I don't know what He gave Adam, but he went sound asleep, and then the Lord took one of his ribs out and used it to make a lady. Don't you think Adam must have been surprised and very happy when he woke up and found there was someone to



Divers Can See the Fish

live with and keep him company?

Now God's work of making things was done. He looked at all He had made and said it was "very good." For six days He had worked and now it was time to rest. So he said the next day was to be a day of rest. That is why we now rest on the Sabbath, and worship God.

A Big Boat



ARE YOU ready to take a boat ride this morning? Oh, I am sure you would not like to ride in this boat. It was the funniest boat that anyone ev-

er built. But when you hear what it was for, you will see why it was so funny.

The people that were living in the world had become so very wicked and disobedient that God grew tired of talking to them.

But there was one man who was



Noah Building the Ark



The Animals Going Into Noah's Ark, by Twos



The People Climbed to the Highest Places They Could Find

not like the rest. They did not have any Bibles in those days, but people knew how to pray, and I am sure Noah—that was the man's name—used to gather his family around him and teach them about God and how to serve Him.

Now God could not think of destroying a family that was good, so He told Noah what was going to happen, and how he could save himself and his family.

It had never rained before this time, and of course the people didn't know what rain was. But God said it was going to rain—not just a nice rain, like we have on the hot days of summer, but it would rain and rain and rain for forty days. That would be for nearly six weeks. Just think of there being nothing but rain for six Sundays and every day between.

Of course the people didn't believe it when Noah told them what God was going to do, and only laughed at him. But he started right in to build his boat as God had showed him.

You see they didn't have boards and shingles made at sawmills in those days. They had to cut them all by hand, their tools were not nearly as good as those we have now, either. Then it was to be a great big boat. And now I will tell you why they wanted it

so big. It wasn't just to save the family of Noah, but God wanted to save some of the animals of the world from drowning. He wanted two of each kind to be taken into the boat so they would not be lost to the world altogether. You see if Noah hadn't done that there wouldn't have been any lions or bears or any other animals left in the world.

Noah built the boat just as God told him to do it, but what do you suppose he was doing besides working? Whenever people would come along and ask him what he was doing or why he was doing it, he would tell them what God had told him, and warn them not to be so wicked. But they paid no attention to him and wouldn't believe a word he said. I believe they thought he was crazy. They had never seen it rain—why



The High Mountains Were Covered

should they expect something so strange? But Noah kept on preaching and pounding away, and at last the "Ark" was finished. It was covered inside and out—not with pretty white paint, but with pitch to keep the water from coming in. It wasn't made to look pretty, but to save people from the rain.

When all was ready, the animals just came flocking in. God must have had some way of telling them, just as He tells the birds to go north in the summer and south in the winter.

I think you would have been frightened to see the elephants, the lions, tigers, leopards and all the other wild beasts come walking through the door and showing very plainly that they wanted to stay. Then think of all the birds—it must have taken a long time for them to get in. I think the birds probably flew in through the window.

Well, they all got in at last. The window was shut and fastened—but who would shut the door? It

was the Lord Himself, and when He shut the door it was fastened so that no one could possibly get in.

Then the rain began to come. Now the people no doubt began to look for the Ark, but it was all shut up and they could not get in. Then they started to climb the hills and mountains, but the water kept getting higher and higher, and at last even the highest mountains were covered and the people were lost.

There is another door that God shuts sometimes, but that will come in another story, so I will not tell you now.

Do you think Noah and his boys and their wives were sorry for all the



It Brought Back a Leaf



Coming Out of the Ark

trouble that had been taken to build the Ark? I am sure they felt pretty happy to be safe inside when the waters were all around them and yet they were safe in God's care.

But the rain stopped at last, and after Noah had waited quite a while he thought he would try to find out if the earth was still covered. He opened the window and sent out a big black bird called a raven. It never came back, for it liked flesh to eat and so would fly to the dead bodies of the animals floating on the water. Then he sent out a dove, but

it soon came back, for it couldn't find any place to rest. In a few days, he sent it out again. It brought back a leaf from an olive tree. So Noah knew it would not be long until they could get out again and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine—for I am sure it must have been very disagreeable to be shut in with all those animals.

It seemed a long time to wait, but the day came at last when they could break open the door and let everybody out.

What do you suppose was the first thing these people did? It was to get down and thank God for taking care of them.

A Great, High Tower



AFTER THE FLOOD, people began again to multiply until there were soon a great many people upon the earth. Some of these were mighty and strong men, and very brave.

Among the strong and brave, was Nimrod. We are told in the Bible that "he began to be a mighty one in the earth." There were many wild and

fierce animals walking about, and Nimrod killed a great many of them. The Bible says he was a "mighty hunter before the Lord." He also built cities.

Among the cities he built, was one great city. That was Babel. Not only were there houses in this city, and the other things to be found in cities, but something else—and that was a great, high tower.

Why should the people want to



Nimrod the Mighty Hunter

build a tower? we ask. Well, there might have been several reasons.

One reason was, that they wanted to make them a name. Perhaps they wanted those who should come after them, to know what great things they had done.

Then, they wanted to stay together around this city which they had built. They did not want to be scattered into far distant parts of the earth. By having such a high tower, if they got a long way off from their city, they could always see the tower, and return again. They did not

have the compass and other means of finding out distances.

And I wonder, if one reason was not, they wanted to be safe, in case another flood should come. Their plan was to build this tower so high that they could climb up to Heaven.



Building the Great Tower of Babel

God's Friend

CAN YOU imagine who this friend was? Jesus said to His disciples one day, "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you to do." Then it surely must have been someone who was willing to do whatever God wanted him to do. We

shall see what this friend's name was.

The first thing he was told to do was to leave his country and all his friends and go out to seek the country that God was going to give him. He didn't even know where he was going. But he took a large tent, his wife, his nephew, Lot, and went out, not knowing whither he went.



Abraham's Long Trip Into the Country God Promised to Give Him



Abraham Gave Lot His Choice of the Land

It must have been quite a tiresome trip. They didn't ride in a nice automobile in those days, but on the backs of the camels. They had all their flocks of cattle, sheep, camels and asses to take with them too, so they must have had to go very slowly. But at last they came to the place where God wanted them, and the first thing Abraham did was to build an altar and worship the Lord. I am sure he was very thankful that God had cared for them through the long hard journey, and now they could rest at last.

But there were some in the company who

liked to quarrel—just as children do sometimes when they are just playing. You remember they had great flocks and herds. Of course it took a great deal of pasture for all those animals, and those who cared for Lot's herds started to quarrel with Abraham's servants about the food for the cattle.

Abraham was very sorry to hear of their quarreling and told Lot it would never do. He said to him, "I think it would be best for us to separate—you go one way and I will go the other, and we will have more room to pasture our flocks and herds." Then he gave Lot his choice; if he wanted to go to the left Abraham would go to the right, and if Lot wanted to go to the right he would go to the left. Lot looked over the plains and saw that they would be much better than the hills, because the land was rich and well watered, so finally he said, "I guess I'll take the plains." So they separated and Lot took his tent and lived near Sodom.

The Story of the Twins



THESE TWINS that I am going to tell you about were different, one from the other. One was red and covered all over with hair, and the other was white and smooth. One was just a few minutes older than the other and he was supposed to get the most of his father's sheep and cattle and to be the priest of the family.

I don't think these boys were very happy, for the Bible says that their father loved one and their mother

loved the other. I am afraid these twins learned to dislike each other.

The older one was named Esau, and the younger was Jacob. Their father's name was Isaac, and their mother's, Rebekah.

The Bible says that Esau liked to hunt and his father liked to eat the meat he would get. They did not have guns to hunt with in those days; he probably used a bow and arrow to kill the animals. Jacob did not care anything about hunting, but he took care of the sheep and cattle.

One day Esau came in from hunt-



Isaac Blessing Jacob, Thinking He Was Esau



Jacob's Wonderful Dream

ing very, very hungry. Jacob was cooking some pottage, and Esau asked him to give him some. These boys were both very selfish, and instead of giving it to his brother he wanted to sell it to him for his birthright. Esau said that he could have it if he would give him some dinner. So

Esau despised his birthright. He didn't like to work and he didn't like to pray, and that is why he didn't care if he lost the blessing that should have been his.

When Isaac got to be an old man his eyes became dim so he could not tell who came into the room. He would always take the boy's hands and feel them. If they were hairy and smelled of the woods and animals, he knew it was Esau. If they were smooth he knew it was Jacob.

A little while before he died he called Esau and said, "Take your bow and arrows and go to the fields and get some nice venison. Then cook it and bring it to me. I have something to tell you." So Esau got his bow and arrow and hurried off to the fields.

But Rebekah had heard Isaac talking to Esau and instead of trusting God to take care of the boy she loved she made a wicked plan for Jacob to deceive his father. She told him to go quickly and get her a young goat. When they had

killed it she took the skin and made Jacob some gloves that would of course feel hairy and smell of the animals.

Then she cooked the meat and sent Jacob in to deceive his father. When Isaac heard his voice he said it sounded like Jacob. But Jacob said, "NO,

I am Esau"; and when he felt his hands and smelled them he said, "Yes it must be Esau." Then he prayed for him and gave him what he had meant to give Esau and made him the priest of all the family. When Esau came home, of course he was very angry and said that after his father died he would kill his brother. So you see one bad thing just leads to another.

Jacob had to leave his mother and father and go to live with his uncle. He was sorry he had been so wicked and deceitful and God forgave him. One night on his way to his uncle's home he had to sleep out on the ground with a stone for a pillow. He dreamed that a long lad-



Jacob Was Welcomed at His Uncle's House

der reached from the earth to Heaven and the angels were going up and down. When he awoke he said, "Surely God must have been in this place and I didn't know it."

On his way he promised God, that if He would care for him, protect him and prosper him he would surely serve Him all his life. I think he had had enough of doing wrong and had learned a good lesson. How much better if he had never started to do wrong!

When he got to his uncle's home they treated him very kindly and he was like one of the family. He lived there about twenty years and when it came time for him to go back he had a



Jacob Returned With a Great Company



Jacob's Brother Welcoming Him Back Home

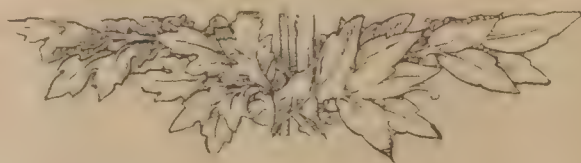
large family and a great many sheep and cattle.

On the way home, Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred soldiers. Of course Jacob remembered that his brother had threatened to kill him—and now what was he to do? The only thing he could do was to pray and ask God to protect him and make Esau's heart tender so he would not kill him and his children. So instead of going to bed that night he went off by himself and prayed all night. In the morning he felt sure God would take care of

him and started to meet his brother.

He sent Esau a fine present but by the time they met, Esau's heart had been made so tender he hugged his brother instead of killing him. After that they had no more quarrels but I suppose they often thought of their boyhood days and were sorry they had such unhappy times because they had been so wicked.

I forgot to tell you that on the way home another wee baby came to live with Jacob's boys. He now had twelve. We shall hear more about them later.



The Story of Moses

 **M**OSES was a beautiful little boy but as soon as he was born there was danger threatening his life. The wicked king had commanded that every boy among the Hebrews should be killed as soon as he was born. What a wicked king!

For three months this laddie was kept hidden somewhere in the house but his parents knew that the time would come sooner or later when he would be found and he, and perhaps all the family, would be put to death. What were they to do?

The mother made a little basket, and daubed it inside and out, with mud from the river and let it dry very hard. Then she covered it with pitch so it would be water-tight. She then fixed the baby in the little "boat" and set it among the reeds by the river, all alone.

The king's palace was not very far off, and it was not long until Miriam, the "big sister" saw the princess com-

ing to the river. They did not have bath rooms in their houses in those days and when they wanted to wash they had to go to the river.

Soon she spied the little boat, and wanted to see what that queer thing was. So the maid was sent to fetch it and the basket was uncovered and the first thing—the baby started to



The Dear Little Baby Began to Cry

cry. She knew at once that it was a Hebrew baby but his crying made her feel sorry for him and she decided she would let the maid take the dear little baby right up to the palace where

he would be taken care of, and where she could watch him grow.

But the sister was watching all this time and she came up bravely to the princess and said, "Shall I go get you a nurse from among the Hebrew women?" Of course the princess said "Yes." But when the "nurse" came she said to her, "Take this little boy and nurse him and I will pay you wages."

So the baby was taken—where do you think?—right back where he was born; and there he lived until he was old enough to go to the palace. Then he became the adopted son of the princess.

But Moses had learned something in those years in his father's house, and he became a great soldier.

Then one day—when, or how, or where, we cannot say, he came up to the time when he had to make a choice. He could either stay in the palace and some day sit on the throne of Egypt, or he could be one of the Hebrews that were so much despised. They were by this time nothing more

than slaves and had to spend all their time working for the king. And they had not only to work but had to suffer along with it, for their masters were cruel and beat them unmercifully.

Moses made his choice—I will tell you what it was in the words of the Bible. "By faith Moses when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

One day Moses went out to see his brethren and found a Hebrew fighting an Egyptian. Moses seem to have believed that God would help him to deliver his

people, and thought perhaps the time had come. So he immediately killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day when Moses went out he found two Hebrews fighting. He tried to show them they were brothers and should not quarrel.

But he was greatly surprised and



Their Masters Beat Them Unmercifully

frightened when one of them turned to him and said, "Who made you a ruler over us; will you kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?" Of course the angry man soon told other people too, and it came to the ears of the king. Then Moses had to flee for his life. He went to the land called Midian. Here he became a shepherd and lived there until he was eighty years of age.

One day when Moses was taking care of the sheep he saw a very strange sight. A bush was on fire; but as he watched it, expecting it to turn into ashes, he noticed that it did not change in the least. As he drew near, to watch it more closely, he heard a voice speaking to him from the bush.

It was the voice of God calling him to go and deliver the children of Israel from the land of Egypt.

Nor was he to go as a mighty conqueror with a grand army to defeat that of Pharaoh. All he carried with him was his shepherd's rod but it be-

came a wonderful instrument in working miracles in the land of Egypt. When God had commanded Moses to go back to Egypt he was afraid the people would not believe him or listen to what he told them.

The Lord asked him, "What is that in thine hand?" He said, "A rod." At God's command he cast it on the ground; it turned into a serpent and Moses was frightened and ran away from it. But when he picked it up

again it turned back into a rod. Then God gave him another sign to show to the people. He told him to put his hand to his bosom. Moses did, and when he drew it out it was covered with that fearful

disease—leprosy. He put it again to his bosom and when he drew it out it was restored like the other one. If they would not believe him for these two signs he was to pour water from the Nile river and it would turn to blood. God knew Pharaoh would not want to let His people go. They were his slaves.



The Bush Was on Fire



A Wonderful Deliverance

DELIVERANCE from Pharaoh was no easy task to perform. He did not fear the Israelite's God or His commands. They were only a poor despised crowd of slaves, and he the proud king of Egypt, and their master. So instead of letting them go he increased their burdens. Hitherto they had been given straw to cut into lengths and use in binding the clay they had to make into bricks; but now they were to get it wherever they could, from the stubble fields far and near; and the same number of bricks were required from their hands.

But God saw all this, and soon began to work in their behalf. The rod that Moses carried when tending sheep was now the means of doing most wonderful things. Aaron cast down this rod before the king, and it turned into a serpent. But Pharaoh had some men in his court who could do wonderful things too; and he called them in to see if they could do the same things. They too cast down their rods and they became serpents. But the superior power of God was shown by Aaron's rod swallowing up their rods.

These Egyptians had always worshiped serpents so this was a real blow to their idol-worship. But it was only the beginning of what Moses had to do. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he refused to let the people go. Then the rod was stretched out over the river of Egypt and all the waters



Aaron's Rod Ready to Swallow the Other Rods

of the land became blood. Here was another blow to their worship, for the Nile was held very sacred by all the people of Egypt.



The Frogs in Pharaoh's Bedchamber

Can you imagine the king on his way to the river that morning? As he nears it he notices a peculiar smell; and soon he sees the beautiful river a loathsome mass. Surely he must have thought the God of the Hebrews was greater than the gods of Egypt.

But he still refused to let them go

and soon came the second plague. This was the plague of frogs. They not only swarmed in the ponds and in the streams, but they came up into the houses, and even into the bedchambers, and into the ovens and "kneading troughs"—or, into the bread that the women were getting ready for the oven. The plague was so terrible that the king called for Moses and Aaron, and promised that if they would get rid of the frogs for him, he would let them go.

But after the frogs were gone he changed his mind and still would not let them go. Then followed the third plague. This was lice. No Egyptian god could deliver from this awful pest, and as the magicians saw it they said, "This is the finger of God," meaning that their idols were helpless to drive away the vermin.

But the heart of the king was still set against the wish of God concerning His people, and the rod was stretched

out again. This time it brought a mighty swarm of flies. The Egyptians' "Fly-god" was called on to deliver them, but no rest was given until Pharaoh promised to let the people go, and asked them to pray God to take the flies away. As usual, as soon as the flies were gone the king with-

drew his consent and sent them back to their tasks.

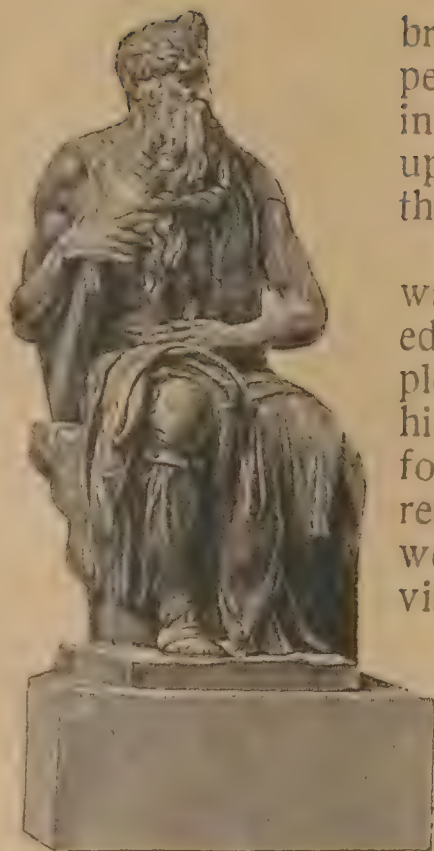
The next plague was aimed at the cattle. A terrible skin disease attacked the animals, and many of them died. But still God's people were kept in bondage—but they did not suffer by these plagues; God put a difference between them and the Egyptians.

Next came that plague called "boils and blains." Some have thought it to be leprosy—that most dreaded of all diseases. Whatever it was it fell on man and beast and even on the priests of Egypt.

This must have been a severe blow to the Egyptians for it kept the priests from their religious duties. This was to show both Israelites and Egyptians that the Egyptian god, "Typhon," was powerless to help them.

As nothing seemed to move the heart of the wicked king the rod was stretched out—this time over the fields. It was the month of March, the barley was in the ear; and the flax, in blossom. A terrible storm of thunder, lightning, and hail swept over all the land, except the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived. The barley and flax were completely destroyed.

The wheat and rye were not destroyed as they were still small and so grew again. The wonderful rod was stretched out and a strong east wind



Moses

brought the most dreaded pests—the locusts. Swarming in countless numbers they ate up every green thing before them.

For once the proud king was humbled. He acknowledged he had sinned, and implored Moses and Aaron that his sin against God might be forgiven. But sad to say, his repentance did not last, and we have a record of two more visitations before he gave his final consent to let God's people go.

The next was the plague of darkness. For three days the darkness was so intense "they saw not one another, neither rose any from his place." Once more the king called for Moses, but became so angry at him that he drove him from his presence, telling him if he ever came again he would put him to death. Moses quietly answered, "It is well, I will see thy face again no more."

But now the time was drawing near when the last awful stroke was to be given, and God's people were to pass from their cruel bondage forever. Moses commanded the people to prepare for the journey before them. Each family was to take a lamb, kill it, and sprinkle the blood on the doorposts and on the "lintel." This was oh, so important. For the sprinkled blood was to be their protection against the last awful plague. They were also to be ready at a moment's



The Destroying Angel Was Passing Through the Land

notice—every one of the Israelites.

In the silence of midnight came that last fearful visitation—the destroying angel passed through the land. He entered every house, except those where the blood had been sprinkled. A “great cry arose through all the land of Egypt.” For in every house he entered, the oldest child of the family was slain.

Rushing from the palace, Pharaoh and his servants hastened to call Moses and Aaron, saying, “Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said,and be gone; and bless me also.”

Called in the midst of their feast, the people hurried to a place appoint-

ed, and prepared to march out of the land. The children and the sick were put on asses. The cattle were driven before them, the unbaked bread and kneading troughs were wrapped in sheepskins, and carried on their shoulders.

Had deliverance come? Not yet. After three days' marching they found themselves pursued by the Egyptians. Terrified, the people began to murmur against Moses for bringing them out into the wilderness only to be captured again and taken back to worse bondage than ever. But Moses told them to stand still and see what God would do for them. A great “east” wind began to blow, and soon where there had been the great waves of the

sea, there was nothing but dry land. They passed over and soon were on the other side. When Pharaoh and his host came up to the place, they thought they could follow, and started to cross. But Moses stretched out his rod over the sea, and the wind suddenly changed. Immediately the water began to return to its place, and the heavy chariots began to sink. They tried to go back but it was too late. The entire army was destroyed. "There remained not so much as one of them." God had slain their enemy.

Thus it is to be seen how safe people always are who trust in the Lord. The Bible tells us that those who put their trust in the Lord shall never be confounded. This story gives us a very good example of this. It surely looked as though there was no escape for Moses and his people.

Just imagine their situation. There was a mountain on this side, and another mountain on that side. Behind them were the angry hosts of Pharaoh, determined to capture them and take them back to Egypt. In front of them was the Red Sea stretching out. What could they do?

The Lord is never at a loss to know what to do. He knew all the time what deliverance He was going to send. He did not intend to have His



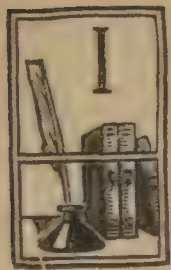
Moses Stretched Out His Rod and the Sea Returned

people taken back to Egypt. Just at the right time He sent the deliverance.

How do you think the people felt when at last they saw their cruel taskmasters were gone, never to trouble them again? Their gratitude to God broke forth in the memorable song which follows:

"I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him." And the women took up the song—Miriam, the sister of Moses, leading them with dancing and with timbrels—"Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

The Boy Jesus



IF WE could have visited the Temple in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago we might have noticed two old people among the throng of worshipers. They would perhaps be standing at one side, watching the people as they came with their offerings and sacrifices. We might have seen a special earnestness in their faces, especially if there happened to be a young child among those who came to worship.

So these old people waited, until one day there came in a little group of three—a father holding in his hands a pair of doves, the mother with a tiny Babe in her arms. At once the attention of these old folks was turned toward the Babe. The old man saw at last his hopes realized and prayed, "Now Lord let thy servant die in peace." Anna, the old lady, also recognized Him and spread the news among her friends, that at last the Messiah had come.

But He was not yet to be well



Working in the Carpenter Shop

known among the people. He went back in His mother's arms to their humble lodgings, and was soon on His way to Egypt whither His parents fled to save their Boy from the sword of Herod.

After Herod's death, they returned and dwelt at Nazareth, one of the most despised towns in Palestine. Here Jesus learned, as all Jewish children did, from the law and the prophets. As He grew older He worked with

His father in the little carpenter shop and "grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

At the age of twelve, the great event for Jewish boys came into the life of Jesus. He was to be taken to Jerusalem and become a "subject of the commandment," that is, He was to become subject to the whole law; and from that time, to perform all the duties belonging to grown-up men.

After eight days spent in the city, the company set out on their homeward journey. As every one had been told of the time of starting no one noticed that one of their number was missing. But as the different families collected to spend the first night together after traveling all day, the boy Jesus was nowhere to be found.

What fear, sadness, and regret filled the hearts of Mary and Joseph as they parted from the company and made their way back to the city. Their Boy, only twelve years of age, left alone in the crowded city! What might have happened! As they thought of the wonderful circumstances of His birth and early life, they must have reproached themselves for not taking better care of their sacred charge.

They, perhaps, had some idea

where they might find Him, for the "third day"—that is, from the time they left—they found Him in the Temple. He could not, of course, have been in the Temple itself, as no one but the priests could enter that sacred place. He was probably in one of the outer courts or halls where the doctors and lawyers met together. There they found Him, "in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions."

You may wonder why so small a boy would be allowed to speak so freely. Students were allowed to ask questions freely. No doubt the questions Jesus asked, showed so much wisdom that the doctors in turn questioned Him to see how much He knew.

Mary reproved her Boy a little, saying, "Why hast thou thus dealt with us?" But

Jesus' answer satisfied and silenced her—"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Thus Jesus went about His "Father's business." He went about doing good; and at last laid down His life—for the good of others.



At Twelve Years of Age





Hosanna! Be the Children's Song

By James Montgomery

Hosanna! be the children's
song,
To Christ, the children's
King;
His praise, to whom our souls
belong,
Let all the children sing.

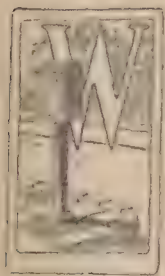
Hosanna! sound from hill to
hill,
And spread from plain to
plain,
While louder, sweeter, clearer
still,

Woods echo to the strain.

Hosanna! on the wings of light,
O'er earth and ocean fly,
Till morn to eve, and noon to
night,
And Heaven to earth, reply.

Hosanna! then, our song shall
be;
Hosanna to our King!
This is the children's jubilee;
Let all the children sing.

Peter The Fisherman



WE ARE standing today in a crowded city street. Men, women, and children are rushing from all quarters to behold something their eyes have never seen before. We are in the Holy City. Multitudes from all parts of the world are gathered here to join in the great sacred Jewish feast of Pentecost. From even far-off Rome Jews and proselytes (converts to the Jewish faith) have gathered to take part in the harvest festival.

But what is it that draws the great throngs from their feasting to the streets of Jerusalem, on this memorable day? A few humble disciples

have been waiting in an upper room for the fulfilment of the promise of Jesus. Suddenly a great sound like a "rushing, mighty wind" shook the place and "there appeared cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."

From that place they rushed to the streets of the city and began to tell the people of the wonderful blessing they had received. The people listen and gaze with wonder as they hear their story. As the crowds gather, one man stands up and lifts up his voice and begins to speak to the people. Who is this man who dares to stand in the very city where Jesus was condemned to die, and defend His cause?



Jesus Calling Peter to Follow Him

I want to tell you a little about him. Think back about three years, and we will pass from the crowded city and, following the road over which the strangers have come from Rome, we will journey north. We pass the well of Jacob then on through the little town of Nazareth where Jesus spent His boyhood days. Then we climb the hills to the northeast and look down on the blue waters of Galilee, or Lake Tiberias, as it is also called.

Descending to the shore, we are in the midst of a busy scene. Far and near, over the waters, are scattered the fishing boats. Some of the men are on the shore mending their nets

the shore. He recognizes among these men, some friends who had visited Him a short time before. As He talks He begins to impress upon them the fact that while there are plenty of fishermen to gather the fish in Lake Galilee, there are few who are ready to follow Him and become "fishers of men." As He talks their eyes brighten, and we are not surprised when we see them rise at His call and, leaving their work and their friends, become His followers.

A few months passed. We are back again at the same scene. But there is something else to attract our attention this time. Over the hills comes



Jesus Takes Peter's Hand So He Does not Sink

which often get broken with the "great multitude of fishes." Others are throwing the small hand-nets into the sea.

As we look upon the busy scene we see a stranger slowly walking along

been rowed back and forth over the quiet sea, but no sign of fish appeared.

But at Jesus' command they let down the net, not even waiting as usual to see the fish; and so great a

a great throng of people to hear the word of God from the lips of Jesus. He steps into the boat belonging to His friend, Peter, and asks him to "thrust out a little from the land."

After a sermon, He suggests that the fishermen row out into the Lake and let down their "bag-nets" for a draught of fish. But they are slow to do it. All night long, with blazing torch, their boat had

multitude of fish are enclosed that their nets soon begin to give way, and they call for their partners to come and help them. So great an impression does this make upon the disciples that at His command, they forsake all and follow him.

Let us visit this wonderful Lake once more. Peter has followed his Master for some time now. He has seen the water turned to wine at Cana of Galilee, he has seen the blind receive their sight, the dumb to speak, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. He has seen the widow's son, at Christ's command, raised to life and restored to his sorrowing mother. And once more a crowd has gathered and is listening to the words of Jesus, by the shores of Galilee. This time Jesus tells His disciples to cross the Lake in a boat, while He waits to send the multitude back to their homes.

There seems nothing to be alarmed about. The water is perfectly calm and there is not a cloud in the sky. Jesus has gone to the mountain to pray and the disciples are on their way across the water. But suddenly a storm rises, and in a short time the quiet lake is covered with wild, tempestuous waves.

There seems little hope of reaching land or escaping death in the foaming water, but suddenly they see Jesus coming over the waves, not in a life-boat to rescue them, but He is actually "walking on the water."

Their fear of the waves now turns to superstitious fear that it is a "spirit." But Jesus bids them not to fear, saying, "It is I."

A strange desire comes into Peter's heart—he wants to walk out on the water to meet Jesus. But his courage is stronger than his faith, and he soon



The Cock Crows and Peter Weeps

finds himself sinking in the waves. But Jesus stretches forth His hand, saying, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

We pass rapidly on, in our imagination, through busy days and weeks that followed, to the upper room where they have gathered for the last time, to eat and drink the feast of the Passover. As we linger here we hear these dreadful words pronounced: "One of you shall betray me." We see Judas pass from the little group, with a look on his face that makes us shudder. We pass on with Peter and the others "over the brook Cedron"

into the Garden where Jesus withdraws from His disciples to wrestle in prayer through that last night of agony. We glance from one scene to the other.

The disciples, tired and worn, finally forget their Lord and go to sleep. We stand aside as the traitor Judas comes with a band of wicked men and betrays Jesus into their hands. We watch Peter now. Hitherto so faithful, so loyal, so true. When eve-

Here he can see, if not hear, what is taking place in regard to his Master. Suddenly he is questioned by one of the maids, as he stands among the others around the charcoal fire.

We are shocked to hear him flatly deny any relationship with Jesus. He denies it not only once but three times. Jesus casts one sad look on poor, faint-hearted Peter. The cock crows and Peter leaves the place to weep over his condition.

But the great day of Pentecost has come, and Peter, the faint-hearted Peter, now filled with holy boldness stands up in the street of the city and shows his courage by turning upon that crowd and charging them with the murder of his Lord.

We will pass on rapidly now. We pause a few moments at the Beautiful gate of the Temple, and see a wonderful miracle performed. Peter and John are entering at the hour of prayer. A poor helpless beggar attracts their attention and they turn aside to



In the Name of Jesus, Rise Up and Walk

ry one else but the little band had turned back and "walked no more with him," Peter had said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

He lingers behind the crowd, following "afar off." When the crowd passes into the palace of the High Priest, John, who is known in the palace, obtains entrance for Peter.

see what they can do. We hear Peter say, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." We see the poor man, lame from his birth, leap to his feet and pass with the two disciples into the Temple leaping and praising God.

This of course causes a great stir and we hear another memorable ser-

mon preached telling the people plainly, that they had "killed the Prince of life," and allowed a murderer to go free. We would expect them to be cast into prison, but the man who had been healed is standing with them, and the Jews are afraid to lay hands on them because of that.

Again, we leave the city where so much has taken place and visit Peter at Joppa. As we enter the gate we are called by a group of Roman soldiers who inquire if this is the house of Simon the tanner, and if one named Peter is staying in the place. We hear them relate their strange story and hear from Peter, another which seems almost more strange. Their master, Cornelius, had been fasting and praying until the ninth hour; when he saw a man standing before him in bright clothing, who told him God had heard his prayer, and then advised him to send men to Joppa to inquire for one Peter who was lodged in the house of Simon the tanner.

Peter, as they drew near the city, was on the housetop praying and he too saw a vision. A great sheet was let down from heaven and in it were all kinds of beasts and creeping things. Peter wondered at the vision,

but a voice said, "Arise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter, like all Jews, had never eaten anything but "clean" animals, and could not think of eating swine and other animals that were in the sheet. But once more the Voice spoke—"What God hath cleansed,



A Great Sheet Is Let Down From Heaven

that call thou not common or unclean." Three times this was repeated.

When Peter returned from his prayer on the housetop, there were the three men who had been sent by Cornelius. It must have been very interesting to Peter to hear what these visitors had to say.

As the two parties talk over the matter, Peter decides to go with the men, believing that, though they are Romans, it is his duty to go and preach the Gospel to them. We are invited to join the company, and we



Peter Preaching to Cornelius and His Household

see another Pentecost—and this time the Spirit is poured out on Gentiles instead of Jews.

We will visit Peter once more. We pass to a quiet street in the city and knock at a certain gate. As we wait we hear from the inside, the sounds of praise and thanksgiving to God. As one of the family comes to open the door, the words that greet our ear are: "Peter is delivered." We pass on into the house, and hear him tell the strange story of his escape from prison.

Herod, the enemy of the Christians, and king of the Jews, had killed James, the brother of John, "with the

sword." Seeing that pleased the Jews, Peter was arrested and lodged in prison. He was fastened with two heavy chains between two soldiers—the keepers watching carefully that he should not escape. Peter must have put his trust in the Lord for he seems not to have lost much sleep.

Just the night before he was to be brought forth, and probably martyred, an angel came to him in the prison, arousing him from his sleep and saying, "Follow me." As Peter rose his chains fell off, and the door of the prison opened, and he passed out with the angel into the courtyard. They still had the heavy iron

gate to pass, but as they neared it, it opened for them and they were in the street. Then the angel departed. Peter could hardly believe it was so, but thought he was dreaming. But it was really so, and he hurried to the house of his friends to tell them that the Lord had delivered him.

There was a great stir, the next morning, in that prison. The soldiers

God has our lives in His hands, and Peter was perfectly safe. No one could harm him, until his work for God was done. He lived many years after this, and served God.

Of Peter's later life we do not know a great deal. Jesus had told him one time that when he was young he "girded himself and went wherever he cared to but that when he



The Angel Delivers Peter and Leads Him Out Into the Street

who were set to watch Peter, were killed, because he escaped. Of course they could not help it, as the mighty angel of God just took Peter away from them without their knowing anything about it.

should be old others should gird (or bind) him and carry him where he would not care to go." Tradition tells us that he was crucified like his Lord. But he followed his Master—not "afar off" but closely, faithfully to the end.



Tarsus, the Place Where Paul Was Born

Paul~the Great Missionary



HE WAS the great apostle Paul. His name was not Paul at first, however; it was Saul. He was born in the city of Tarsus, situated among the beautiful mountains in southern Asia Minor. He spent his boyhood days in this city, which has had an important place in history. There he gained his first knowledge of the wonderful law delivered by the God of Israel to His people, hundreds

of years before this time, on Mt. Sinai.

Later on, Saul went to Jerusalem to be educated. At that time there was a very wise teacher in Jerusalem by the name of Gamaliel. It was to this man that Saul was sent to be taught. We may safely imagine he was a good scholar, for even as a young man he had completed his education and had reached a place of considerable influence in the nation.

Not only was Saul a ready scholar, he was also very loyal to his religion.

So loyal was he, that he was a great persecutor of those who preached another religion. Where Saul was when Jesus was in and about Jerusalem, we do not know; but after Jesus' crucifixion and when His followers were telling the people of His glorious death and resurrection, Saul is seen to have become a great persecutor of them.

Zealous as he was for his religion, it is no wonder we find him "consenting to the death of Stephen" and guarding the outer garments of the rough rabble while they hurled the stones at the martyr Stephen. What his thoughts were as he looked at that pure face, upturned to Heaven and praying: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," we are left to guess; but in all probability the sight caused his conscience to trouble him.

Not satisfied with dragging the Christians to prison in Jerusalem, he determined to go to other cities and if possible, rid the country of the hated sect of the Nazarenes, as they called the followers of Jesus. So he consulted the Elders and priests and got letters from them that would give him power to go to Damascus and persecute and destroy the Christians.

At the slow rate of Eastern journeys it would probably take him nearly two weeks to travel the 150 or 160

miles from Jerusalem to Damascus. Everything seemed to prosper the journey until very near the gates of the city where it was intended by this proud persecutor, that death and destruction should await the humble followers of Jesus.

Suddenly, "about mid-day" there came a halt to the expedition. A light from heaven shone upon the traveler. Falling to the earth he heard a Voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

He was greatly surprised and said, "Who art thou, Lord?"

Once more the Voice said to him, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."



A Light From Heaven Shone Upon Paul

He saw at once what he had been doing—that instead of doing God service he had been destroying God's work and injuring His cause. He yielded to the voice of God, and there

came a wonderful change in his life. As he expressed it years later, "old things passed away and behold all things became new."

Saul began at once to preach Jesus, with great power. But he soon found that to be a disciple of Jesus meant that he too would have to suffer for Him. Yet from the time when on the road to Damascus he saw his Lord to the day he suffered a martyr's death, he "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

His first trouble came in the very city where he had planned the persecution of the Christians. The Jews of course soon became his bitter enemies and, not being able to withstand his words, they formed a plot to arrest him—getting the governor to assist them. Paul however had gained many friends among the Christians by this time, and when they saw there was no hope of a peaceful settlement between Paul and the Jews, on account of the Jews' bitter hatred of Jesus, it was decided that Paul should leave Damascus. But they were compelled to let him down over the wall in a basket, as the gates of the city were carefully guarded by soldiers.

Many of the houses in the city were (and are still in eastern countries) built on the wall, and so it was an easy matter to let him down through an open window.

He now turned his face back to Jerusalem. It was about three years, since he had left that city with the intention of persecuting the Christians living in Damascus. How different



Letting Paul Down in a Basket

he must have felt from the way he felt when he left Jerusalem three years before. Now he was "one" of those of whom before, he had been a murderer.

Of course he was not known in the city of Jerusalem as a Christian and when he went to join himself to the band of followers of Jesus there, they did not receive him. They thought he came only to betray and destroy them. They could scarcely believe the good news for a while; it seemed too good to be true. But a good man by the name of Barnabas, who knew all about what God had done for Saul, proved to them that Saul was really a new man; that the great opposer of the faith of Jesus was now a faithful witness of His death and resurrection.

Saul's heart was sad because of the way they treated him and he took



Paul and Silas in the Jail at Philippi

the matter to the Lord in prayer. Once more that Voice spoke to him and said, "Make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem for they will not receive of thee the testimony respecting me."

Saul reminded the Lord of his former treatment of the Christians in and around Jerusalem, and probably wished to make amends for his past misdeeds, by helping and encouraging those who formerly he had treated wrongly. But the second message

which he received from the Lord settled the matter forever. "Depart for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles," was what God told him. From this time he turned his face from his native land, visiting it after that, only for brief periods, and traveled far and wide preaching, that Jesus is the Son of God.

We can not follow Saul through all his wonderful career, traveling by sea or by land, everywhere laboring day and night for the spread of the Gospel. His travels were indeed very extensive. His life was crowded with most remarkable incidents. Once on the island of Cyprus, while he was preaching in the city of Paphos, the deputy of the city gave heed to what he was saying. A certain man who was a sorcerer in that place who had had much influence, opposed the preaching, seeking to keep the deputy from obeying the Gospel. God struck

the sorcerer blind. This deputy's name was Sergius Paulus. Ever after this incident Saul is spoken of as "Paul," in the Bible. We will take a glimpse of him and his comrade Silas, in the city of Philippi, in Macedonia. This was another of Paul's wonderful experiences.

Here they would not be in danger from the Jews, and were left to carry on the work of the Lord for some time without being molested. They were kindly entertained by Lydia, a

woman who was a "seller of purple." This purple was a colored cloth very popular at that time through all the Roman empire.

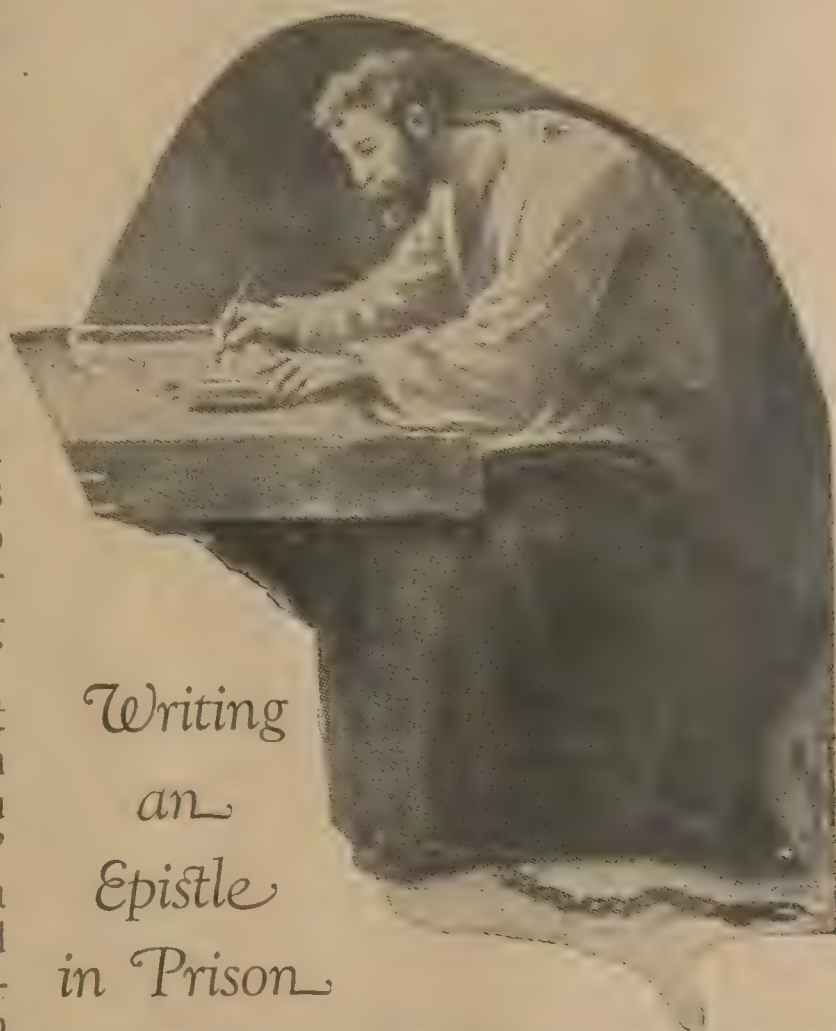
But they finally met with opposition, even in Philippi. Paul cast a demon out of a young woman who had made much gain for her masters by fortune-telling; and she was now perfectly healed. As soon as her masters saw what was done, and that their gains were cut off, they became very angry. Paul and Silas were cast into prison, after a severe beating. Although suffering as they were, they passed the night singing and praising God. Suddenly at midnight there was a tremendous crash! A great earthquake shook the place, opening the doors of the prison and loosing the fetters of the prisoners. The jailer, supposing the prisoners were all escaped was about to kill himself, when he was stopped. Paul called to him, telling him the prisoners were all there. The jailer was so convicted by the whole affair that he fell at Paul's feet asking what he must do to be saved.

Paul, seeing his truly penitent spirit, said to him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thine house." The jailer becoming himself a Christian, loved all men, and did all he could to make Paul and Silas comfortable. He treated them most kindly, and then fed them.

At Philippi was not the only place where Paul was put in jail for Jesus'

sake. He spent many years of his life in jail. But this time was by no means lost. He wrote a great many letters to people and also to churches, while confined in these jails.

As you read your Bible, do you ever stop to think, that much of it was written in prisons? Such was the case. It proves how wonderful it is to serve God and let Him have His way in our lives. No matter what our circumstances are, we can still do good. No one would suppose that Paul could do much shut up in prison.



*Writing
an
Epistle
in Prison*

But the years he spent in prison were doubtless the most fruitful years of his entire life.



They All Escaped Safe to Land

Just think how much he helped and encouraged the people in the different churches to which he wrote. He told them that if they kept true to Jesus, in just a little while, they would be in Heaven, where they would reign forever with the Lord. Whether in prison, or out, Paul was earnestly laboring for the wonderful Gospel which had done so much for him.

At one time we find him at Athens,

awful condition of the people worshipping, they knew not what. He preached unto them Jesus, both in the synagogues and in the market places. One day they took him to "Mars' hill." From there he preached a wonderful sermon from the inscription he had seen on one of their altars—"To the Unknown God." He told them about the great God of Heaven, who so clearly reveals Himself to His people.



Paul Preaching to the People in the City of Athens, Greece

the great city of Greece. Here he was waiting the arrival of other disciples. While waiting he could not be idle, and his spirit was stirred as he saw the

Like Enoch of old, Paul "walked with God." He enjoyed being alone with the Lord, and talking with Him. For example, on one of his many

journeys, in passing from Troas to Assos, Paul preferred to walk, while the rest went by ship. This gave him opportunity for being alone with God, and having extra time for meditation and prayer. It is inspiring to think of this great man of God, walking along the dusty road all alone.

After many years of toil and labor he finally returned to Jerusalem. Here he was not long left in peace. The Jews were ever ready to lay hands on him, calling him the "ringleader of the Nazarenes." They found him in the Temple and fearing he was "desecrating" that holy place they "laid hands on him." He would probably have been torn to pieces by them had he not been rescued by the chief captain of the Roman garrison. He was taken before Felix where he pleaded his case and preached to the governor so faithfully that "Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." But Paul was not released and was finally carried a prisoner to Rome.

On the way to Rome, he was in a shipwreck. In the terrible storm, the sailors of the ship in which he was thought the ship would be lost, and all on board would perish. They were all so frightened they did not care to eat.

But Paul had the Lord to help him. One day in the midst of the storm, he told the people to eat, as they needed the food. He also told them that the angel of the Lord had stood beside him, and told him they were all going to be saved.

It came to pass, just as the angel of the Lord told Paul. The ship was brought to land, and not one of the people lost his life. The ship, however, was com-

pletely dashed to pieces on the rocks. The people got to shore from the wreck, on boards and different parts of the ship, which had been torn off by the force of the great waves.

When they reached shore, they learned that it was the island of Melita where they were. Here, they were received very kindly by the people.

While on this island a peculiar thing happened. As Paul was helping to gather sticks with which to keep a fire going, a snake came out from among the sticks and bit him on the hand. It was a very poisonous snake, and the people who saw it, thought he would soon fall down dead. But the Lord did not let any harm come to Paul.

After a short time another ship came to that island, and Paul was taken on that ship, to Rome.

Here he probably remained a prisoner until his death by martyrdom. But even here he was not idle. For



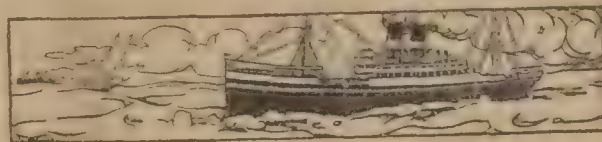
On the Road From Troas to Assos



Paul Pleading His Case Before Felix and Preaching to the Governor

some time he was allowed to live in "his own hired house" and receive "all that came unto him." From here too, came some of those wonderful letters that are still read with so much pleasure and profit by all Bible read-

ers. Here he "finished his course" and found "laid up for him a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give at that day . . . unto all them that love his appearing."



A Noble Lad

He Became Paul's Helper

VERY little is known of Timothy's early life, but it is interesting to think about the few things we do know of a boy who became such a good man as he.

His father was a Greek, and prob-

From the time he was a child he heard the stories about the "Creation," "The Two Boys," "The Big Boat," and many others, until he knew them by heart. Many times no doubt, they told him about the time when God came down on Mt. Sinai with multitudes of angels and, as it

were, held His court on earth. From that court came those wonderful laws that have been the foundation of all laws, wherever the Bible has been read.

Then too he must have been familiar with the wonderful promise given so long ago—That some day there would come a "Governor" to deliver God's people from the bondage of their oppressors. They called Him the "Messiah," the anointed one. Perhaps he read in Zechariah of the people looking on

Him "whom they have pierced," or in Isaiah of His being "brought as a lamb to the slaughter," and would look up at his mother and ask what these meant. But they were not able to tell him; until one day two men came to



Listening to Stories From the Bible

ably not much interested in the God of the Jews. But there were in that household, two who had a deep reverence for the law of God, and made it their daily duty to teach the boy the religion of Jehovah.



Timothy and His Mother, Eunice, Reading



Paul and Timothy

their town, preaching to the people about the great Deliverer for whom they were looking.

The preaching seemed strange, for they said the Messiah had already come.

They could not understand the new teaching at first. But as they watched the lives of the missionaries and compared their teaching with the Scriptures they were sure they must be true. Long and deep were the discussions held in the little family circle. The grandmother, Lois, was the first to accept the new doctrine, and was soon followed by the mother, Eunice, and the boy, Timothy.

A few years passed. A desire to tell the glad story of salvation took hold of the boy, and he became one of Paul's comrades in travel. Paul always called him his "son" and trusted

him with the utmost confidence. And Timothy never failed. Always an example to the believers in word and in deed, he was a real pattern for young men of his age and for all ages to follow.

The apostles of those times were not always well received. After a time Paul came to Jerusalem with some of his friends and a few days later was put in prison. Among those who ministered to him during these long months of trial, no one was more faithful to him than his beloved Timothy. To him, as he was preparing to go to his martyrdom, Paul addressed his last words: "I have fought a good fight, . . . I have kept the faith." We have every reason too to believe that Timothy "endured hardness as a good soldier," "fought a good fight of faith," and "laid hold of eternal life."

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